



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION APRIL 9TH, 1930 (WEDNESDAY MORNING)

REDINGTON EXPOUNDS 3 R's
OF WILD-LIFE CONSERVATION

Research, Regulation, and Refuges
Declared Essential to Future
of Wild Game

The 3 R's of wild-life conservation, says Paul G. Redington, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, are Research, Regulation, and Refuges. Their importance was emphasized in an address he delivered under the auspices of the American Game Protective Association, on April 8, over Station WRC and associated stations of the National Broadcasting Company.

Mr. Redington said that "when the full history of the protection and administration of our game animals and birds is written, the two decades from 1910 to 1930 will be characterized as a period of outstanding achievement in wild-life conservation.

"During these twenty years the number of hunters has increased by leaps and bounds, and millions of acres of forest and woodland coverts, the natural homes of wild life, have disappeared, and original marshlands of tremendous total area have been drained. Our waterfowl in many regions in their annual migrations are now hard put to it to find feeding and resting grounds.

"The various factors inimical to our valuable wild life, however, have at last been fully recognized, and beneficial results have followed, but future con-

servation can continue to be effective only as active interest in the welfare of wild life is maintained.

"Research is of primary importance in determining policies for the preservation and increase of birds, animals, and fishes, and the necessary facts can be developed only through constant scientific study, and now, as never before, earnest and efficient scientists are supplying the administrative branches of game conservation with the needed information.

"Regulation has to do with the game and fish laws, designed to prevent the wastage and abuse that follows greed, ignorance, and commercial exploitation. It will be readily recognized that there must be regulations prescribing open seasons on game and fish, bag limits, and similar matters, and that the gunners, trappers, and fishermen themselves will find it each to his individual advantage to abide by these laws. Unless we can be assured of a general observance of and respect for such laws, we who are now living are very likely to destroy the objects of pursuit or to bring them dangerously close to the point of extermination."

"Refuges for wild animals and birds must be established on the breeding grounds of migratory birds, along the flight lanes, in concentration areas, and on the wintering grounds. The Biological Survey has under its jurisdiction at the present time 84 bird refuges in the United States, Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands, and Porto Rico, 5 of which are reservations to protect big game, and the rest are to give sanctuary to many species of interesting birds.

"Enlargement of the existing system of Government sanctuaries for migratory birds was authorized in 1929 by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, under which appropriations totaling nearly eight millions of dollars, to be distributed over a ten-year period, are contemplated. A more extensive wild-life sanctuary program has never before been undertaken, and its accomplishment will go far toward perpetuating America's valuable birds.

"Wild-life conservation programs," concluded Mr. Redington, "must be supported by a sound public sentiment, inspired and developed by continuous educational measures. We must know the full significance of our 3 R's. New generations must be educated. From their numbers will come those individuals equipped and competent to direct and administer our resources in wild animals and birds."